BUSINESS / B1

Current account surplus hits 7-year high of $5B in '06 due to OFW remittances

NEWS / A5

SC hearing on Satur's petition reset to March 30 at request of prosecutors

NEWS / A2

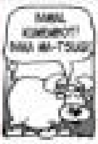
Hunger-striking farmers finally installed in Negros hacienda

ENTERTAINMENT / F1

Borat's gal wears Lhuillier on red carpet



Stay in closet, don't sway hips, gay cops told



STAY IN THE CLOSET. The Philippine National Police yesterday gave this piece of advice to gay officers, warning them not to sway their hips or display other suggestive behavior while on duty—

STAY A5

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Friday, March 23, 2007 ★★ 8 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 105 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

Bishop Tutu condemns RP rights violations

THE HAGUE—A FORUM MADE UP OF LAWYERS and human rights activists opened a hearing on Wednesday into alleged human and political rights violations by the Philippine government, hoping to raise global awareness of the issue.

In South Africa, Nobel Peace Prize winner Desmond Tutu, 75, archbishop emeritus of Cape Town, yesterday condemned the political violence in the Philippines and called on President

BISHOP A14

Iggy's wife fears for life

Court orders 'Jose Pidal' to stay away from her

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE MAN WHO CLAIMED TO BE JOSE PIDAL was ordered on Wednesday by the Quezon City Regional Trial Court to keep his distance from his wife and 9-year-old daughter, whom he has allegedly abandoned.

Judge Rosalina L. Luna Pison of Quezon City RTC Branch 107 ordered Negros Occidental Rep. Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo, younger brother of President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, "to stay away at a distance of 100 meters" from his wife, Alicia Rita M. Arroyo, their child, and family and other household members. (*Arroyo's side on Page A19.*)

Alicia Arroyo, former chair of the Philippine Stock Exchange, had pleaded with the court to issue the protection order because, she said, her life and that of the child were in danger and the lawmaker belonged to the "most powerful political family in the country."

In issuing the order, Pison granted Alicia's petition for the issuance of a 30-day temporary protection order for her "protection and interest" as well as that of her child and members of her family.

The order stemmed from a custody battle docketed as Civil Case No. Q-07-59686 and lodged by Congressman Arroyo to allow him and Alicia "equal visitorial and custodial rights and parental authority" over the child.

IGGY'S WIFE A19



REP. IGNACIO ARROYO: All of that is not true. She's just looking for a reason to win the custody battle. The bottom line is money.



ALICIA MORALES-ARROYO: Life with Iggy went from "very blissful" to "lies, treachery and debauchery."

GMA orders 10% pay hike for government civilian workers

LESS THAN TWO MONTHS BEFORE THE crucial midterm elections, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday ordered a 10-percent across-the-board increase in the monthly pay of all civilian employees of the government in the national and local levels.

Through Executive Order No. 611, Ms Arroyo also raised the monthly hazard pay and daily subsistence allowance of military and police personnel.

The compensation adjustments mandated by EO 611 will take effect on July 1.

"I have just signed an executive order ... adding yet another compensation increase for government employees," Ms Arroyo said at the commencement rites of Sanaiinangan Class of 2007 of the Philippine National Police Academy.

She said the basic salary of government employees had not been increased since July 2001 despite periodic wage adjustments in the private sector and the steady rise in the prices of basic commodities.

"There is an imperative need to improve the morale of the civil service through a more competitive compensation system that supports the economic well-being of government personnel," Ms Arroyo said in the executive order dated March 24.

EO 611 directs the Department of Budget and Management to implement a 10-percent increase in the basic salaries of civilian government personnel whose positions are covered by the Compensation and Classification System under Republic Act No. 6758.

Entitled to a pay increase are officials and employees of national government agencies, state universities and colleges, government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs), government financial institutions (GFIs) and local government units (LGUs).

The pay raise for officials and employees of

GMA ORDERS A19

Sons of their fathers in new party-lists

By Nikko Dizon

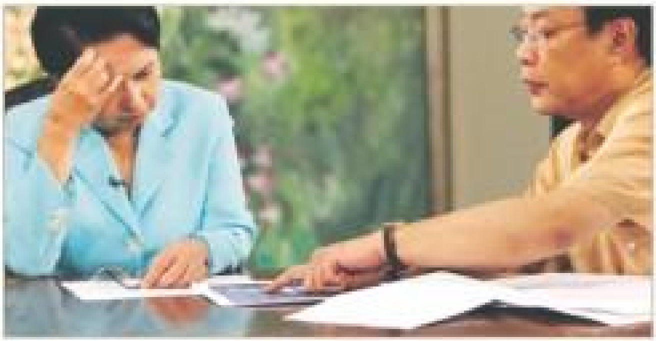
AN ANG, AN OPLE AND A HERRERA have teamed up as the nominees of a party-list group that seeks to represent the country's some 8 million overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) in Congress.

The nominees of Akon Pinoy!, Dante Francis "Klink" Ang, Bernardo Ople and Ernesto Herrera III filed their certificates of candidacy with the Commission on Elections (Comelec) yesterday, wearing yellow construction workers' hats.

Ang is a son of Dante Ang, chair of the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO); Herrera is a son of former Sen. Ernesto Herrera Jr., chair of the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP), and Ople is a brother of the late Blas Ople, a former labor minister and foreign secretary.

In the present 13th Congress, two party-list groups are represented by the sons of personalities. They are Rene M. Velarde (Buhay)—son of Bro. Mike Velarde, leader of the Catholic charismatic group El Shaddai; Hans Christian

SONS A14



NUMBERS DON'T COMPUTE? Whatever, the figures presented by Education Secretary Jesli Lapus make President Arroyo frown during her regular roundtable discussion at the Kalayaan Hall press briefing room in Malacañang.

Congress pork doubles in '07 budget

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

MONTHS BEFORE THE ELECTIONS and amid new reports of the misuse of the congressional pork barrel, lawmakers have increased their pork allocations, almost doubling their allocations of last year.

The lawmakers took P5.6 billion from the retirement pay of government workers set to retire this year in order to increase their pork barrel, the Inquirer learned yesterday.

The pork barrel is appropriated from the national budget to fund projects of lawmakers to

CONGRESS A19

Pork used to buy overpriced fertilizer

By Tony S. Bergonia

PORK BARREL FUNDS WERE USED TO PURCHASE MORE than 3,000 bottles of liquid fertilizer that were overpriced by as much as P1,450 per bottle and 15 units of irrigation pumps that cost about P500,000 more than their actual price per unit.

The funds, from the pork barrel allocation of Rep. Aurelio

PORK A14



FRENCH NUN Blessed Marie-Eugenie, founder of the Religious of the Assumption, will be canonized by Pope Benedict XVI in Rome.

Assumption grads urged to return to values of saintly founder Eugenie

By Kristine L. Alave

GRADUATES OF ASSUMPTION COLLEGE, including its most famous alumna, President Macapagal-Arroyo, have been given a gentle reminder by their alma mater to return to their roots.

School principal Sister Maria Josefina Manlar said on Wednesday that the President was both a "tribute" and

ASSUMPTION A19



WORLD WATER DAY

Cry a river over the Bagong Bayan River in Navotas where a boy cools off unmindful of the ebb and flow of floating garbage. This year's theme is water scarcity, a problem driven precisely by, among other chronic factors, the pollution and degradation of bodies of water.

It takes a community to successfully fight TB

By Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

ROLANDO QUIMPO, A CARPENTER who sports a pony tail, wears earrings and a sleeveless shirt, is not shy to show his daily card checks that indicate how he religiously took his daily oral tuberculosis medication for eight months, two months longer than usual.

A recent sputum test, the golden standard of TB tests, gave the 50-year-old grandfather a clean bill of health. He has also distanced himself from cigarettes and alcohol. Now if he could only get carpentry jobs more often...

Quimpo and his wife were running an eatery (breakfast nook offering cheap porridge and noodles at P5 to P10 per serving) but they had to stop when Quimpo was found to have TB. With Quimpo cured, they are now back in business.

Joel Alkuan, 37, a father of two who works as a "freelancer sa Rosario" (he does odd jobs on Rosario Avenue, a car parts retail strip) "graduated" in December 2006 from his six-month daily treatment and is now TB-free. But he still has to have his regular checkup. He first learned about the anti-TB treatment from a TV ad.

The Quimpos and Alkuans live in congested Tatalon in

IT TAKES A4

Second FRONTPAGE

Negros farmers get land, finally

By TJ Burgonio and Carlo P. Gomez, *Inquirer*

AFTER 11 YEARS OF WAGING BATTLE IN THE courtroom and on the streets, 57 of the 122 farmer-beneficiaries of a sugarcane plantation in Negros Occidental subjected to land reform yesterday were finally installed in a portion of the area in the face of still resistance by another group of farmers.

Tense negotiations

Blessing

'Enforcing the law'



FARMERS from a rival group confront a police barricade at the entrance of the hacienda.



AGRARIAN Reform Secretary Nasser Pangandaman leads farmers into the contested plantation.

SWS SURVEY REJOINDER

Missed meals don't mean hunger – GMA

By Michael Lim Ubac and Volt Contreras

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, TOO, skips meals once in a while, but this does not mean she is one of the hungry poor.

Question on hunger

270 meals in 3 months

Court accepts changes to suit vs Mike A

CAYETANO DEFENSE

RP passport, US visa for an 'American'

By Nikko Dizon

Namfrel gets quick count accreditation

By Nikko Dizon

THE DAILY GOSPEL

More jail time for Satur after hearing reset

By Leila B. Salaverria and Tina G. Santos

BAYAN MUNA REP. SATUR OCAMPO WILL remain in detention at least one more week, and he would be staying in Manila, after the Supreme Court yesterday reset the hearing on his petition to recall the arrest warrant issued against him by a Leyte court.

Oral arguments on Ocampo's petition were originally set for today, but this was moved to March 30 after Solicitor General Agnes Devanadera asked for more time to file her comment.

The other respondents in Ocampo's petition—Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, Hilongos (Leyte) Judge Ephrem Abando and prosecutors Cesar Merin and Rosalie Bravo—were earlier given five days, or until March 23, to file their comments.

Ocampo's lawyer Neri Colmenares said his client should not be made to suffer in detention just because the Solicitor General was not ready for the oral arguments.

"The fact that the SolGen is not ready to argue shows that the evidence is weak and is difficult to defend," Colmenares said.

Ocampo himself said, "I should not suffer continuing detention because of the government's inability to argue."

"They're having a hard time finding evidence against me because all their allegations were fabricated, they're violating my rights," he said.

A victory

Nevertheless, he called the postponement "a victory" because it preempted [the] Philippine National Police move to transport him to Leyte.

On Monday, the police forcibly hauled Ocampo off to Leyte in a private plane to face murder charges stemming from the discovery of a mass grave in Hilongos said to hold the remains of suspected spies within the communist movement who were killed in the '80s.

The plane was ordered to turn back in mid-flight, however, after the authorities received Abando's order allowing Ocampo to remain in Manila until the Supreme Court had decided on his petition.

Ocampo was arrested on Friday last week at the Supreme Court when he turned up to file his petition.

Ocampo, meanwhile, has brought his case to the attention of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights while Countering Terrorism based in Geneva, Switzerland.

In a four-page letter to Martin Scheinin, Ocampo related his arrest and aborted transfer to Leyte on charges he was one of the masterminds of an alleged communist purge that happened over 20 years ago.

"It is my firm view that all these trumped-up charges, the political killings, and various forms of harassment are intended to discredit me and my party before the people and to stop us from winning again in the party-list election," he wrote Scheinin.

No due process

"The Philippine version of the Anti-Terrorism Act, euphemistically titled the Human Security Act, is set to be implemented in July 2007. But government authorities have already disregarded the observance of due process and the rights of the accused in cases against government critics tagged as enemies of the state."

Ocampo included a summary of the arguments his lawyers were set to present before the Supreme Court today. His defense team includes Romeo Capulong, Rachel Pastores and Josalyn Fuo of the Public Interest Law Center.

Meanwhile, Deputy Director General Reynaldo P. Varilla, National Capital Regional Police Office chief, ordered the deployment of an additional 500 policemen to the Manila Police District headquarters on United Nations Avenue in anticipation of a big pro-Ocampo rally by militant groups today. *With Christian V. Esguerra and Nancy C. Carvajal*





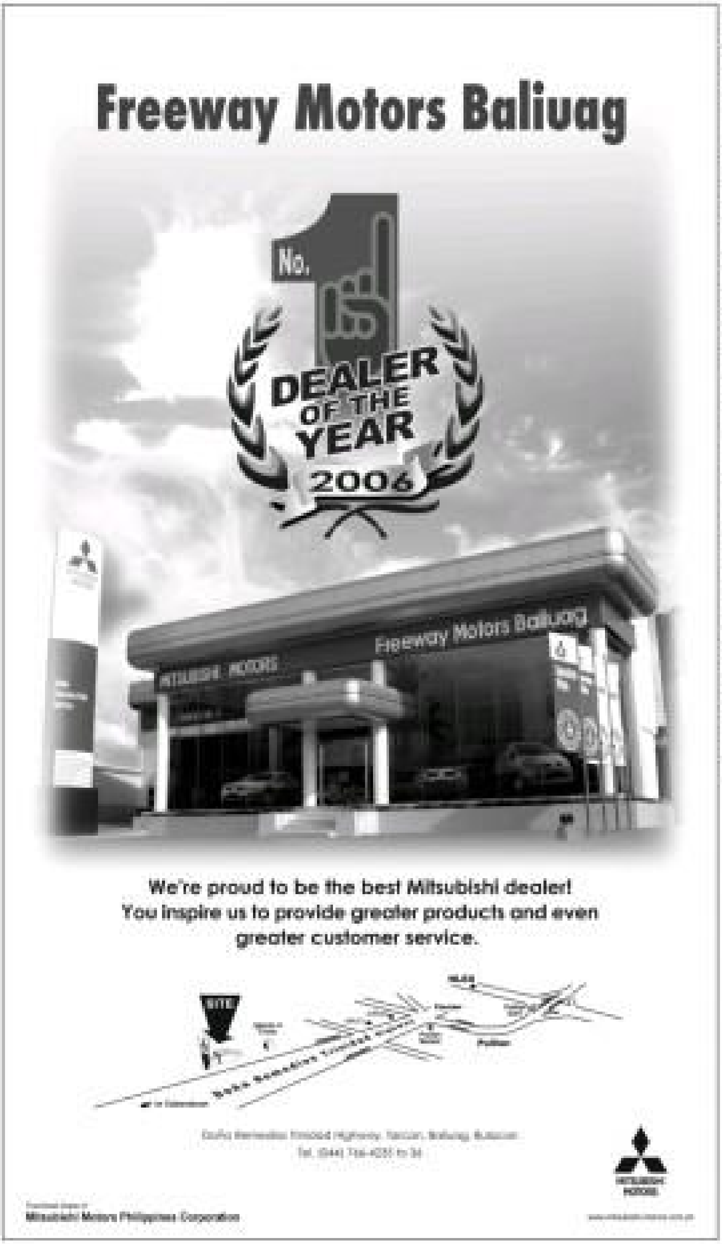
Tell all, Ping urges ex-beauty queen, mom



Kiram: No questions on Sabah, please

Virgilio R. Garcia; 66

Corrections



GO-Lakas alliance in the works, says Lacson

Raiding Lakas

Only five



TB may become 200 times more costly to treat—WHO

XDR-TB

$2 billion needed

It takes a community ...

Home treatment



IN THE KNOW

TB 6th leading cause of death

DOTS and MDGs

QI

Stay in closet, don't sway hips ...

Deeper into closet

Arroyo approves trillion-peso budget



1 of 2 families considers itself poor, says SWS



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
OPINION
Vol. 22 No. 107

Statesman

EDITORIAL

IN THIS ERA, WHEN DODGING ACCOUNTABILITY by any means, fair or foul, has become an ordinary occurrence, the recent order of the Supreme Court dismissing a Court of Appeals justice for inefficiency and misconduct is, to be sure, a cause for relief.

Last Tuesday, the Supreme Court fired Court of Appeals Justice Elvi John Asuncion on two counts. The first was for gross ignorance of the law; and the second, for delaying the resolution of motions for reconsideration filed before his division. Asuncion had actually been cleared of another charge—receiving bags of money—by the Supreme Court. But when he extended a TRO (temporary restraining order) he had previously issued, he stepped out of bounds. A Supreme Court's rule says that the Court of Appeals may issue a TRO only for a fixed period of 60 days. No extensions. Strike one.

Another Supreme Court rule is that there's a 90-day period for resolving motions for reconsideration. Asuncion failed to resolve 71 motions for reconsideration and resolved 170 others beyond the prescribed time limit. Strike two.

Strike three was on the 82 cases Asuncion had left unresolved beyond the 12-month period prescribed by the Constitution. Indeed, there were 409 other cases he had decided—but only after the one-year period prescribed by the Constitution.

Asuncion tried to defend his poor performance by saying that the Court of Appeals was reorganized in 2004. For which reason things were in an uncertain state of flux and so topsy-turvy he was prevented from doing his job.

The Supreme Court replied that most of the motions for reconsideration Asuncion had failed to attend to were filed years before the reorganization took place.

But it was the case in which Asuncion illegally extended his own TRO—a case involving the Philippine National Bank—that practically did him in. The Supreme Court said Asuncion's behavior in relation to that case constituted serious misconduct that justified his dismissal from service. The case had dragged on for five years.

In the words of the high court, "Such failure to follow basic legal commands embodied in the law and the Rules constitutes gross ignorance of the law, from which no one is excused, and surely not a judge. . . . While a judge is presumed to act with regularity and good faith in the performance of judicial functions, a blatant disregard of the clear and unmistakable provisions of a statute, as well as Supreme Court circulars enjoining strict compliance therewith, upends this presumption and subjects the magistrate to administrative sanctions."

Justice delayed, as we all know, is justice denied. Supreme Court Justice Reynato Puno seems passionate about this principle and is bent on tackling this in the best way someone in his position can: by doing everything, within the powers of the high court, to press on with the momentum created by his predecessors. Asuncion was dismissed on the basis of previous court circulars. In response to the epidemic of extrajudicial killings, the Chief Justice ordered the establishment of special courts to speedily attend to and dispatch those cases. In the wake of accusations that electoral protests end up being dragged out—and that decisions on those cases are eventually sold to the highest bidder—Chief Justice Puno created a special committee to come up with recommendations that should close the windows of opportunities for judicial corruption.

The slow pace of the judicial system can make it an ally of fraud. When an election dispute takes so long to resolve, even a decision that goes against the "victor" is usually handed out at a time when the disputed term is about to expire, thus the beneficiary of the whole process is still the official who cheated in the elections.

The Chief Justice has already warned that our country can ill afford another tainted national elections. He is actually doing something to ensure that the judiciary delivers justice, and doesn't get bogged down in inaction, which can only result in discrediting not only the judiciary but also the entire democratic process. To our mind, this is statesmanship.



Sharing the loot with the gov't

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

AN INDICATION of how low some Filipinos regard the Philippine government is the case of a retired lieutenant general of the Armed Forces of the Philippines who wants to keep all ill-gotten wealth charges against him by offering to share his loot with the government. Lt. Gen. Jacinto Ligot—a former comptroller of the AFP accused of amassing P135.23 million in ill-gotten wealth—in a formal proposal to the Office of the Special Prosecutor, had the gall to offer to the government almost P25 million of his assets in exchange for the withdrawal of the charges against him and his family. The offered assets consisted of vehicles, real estate, a condominium unit in Fort Bonifacio and real properties in California.

That's how low some people look at our government after the Presidential Commission on Good Government offered to drop the ill-gotten wealth cases against the Marcoses on condition that they share their loot with the government. If it's good enough for the Marcoses, it should also be good for us, the others accused of similar crimes must be thinking. The offer conjures images of thieves sharing their stolen loot with the policemen, who caught them in exchange for letting are free.

Early this week, Charlie "Atong" Ang, co-accused of former President Joseph Estrada in a plunder case, got off with a two-year prison sentence instead of a possible 40-year jail term, by offering to return P25 million, part of the P130 million in tobacco excise taxes he allegedly "delivered" to Estrada.

Is this now a policy of the Arroyo administration? Share the loot with us and we will let you go. No wonder public officials are now into large-scale theft and kleptocracy. The bigger the loot, the bigger the share of the administration. Jocelyn Bolante is only the tip of the iceberg. Many more are buried under the ice, still hidden from view.

By the way, shouldn't the case against Ligot be plunder, considering that his alleged ill-gotten wealth is more than P50 million? And shouldn't the assets of other former AFP comptrollers also be investigated? Ligot's successor, former AFP comptroller Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, is facing charges of plunder and perjury for allegedly amassing P300 million in ill-gotten wealth. The comptroller controls the hundreds of millions of AFP funds. The comptroller is too great.

* * *

Is the migration of overseas Filipino workers a recent phenomenon? Answer: No. Filipinos have been going to other countries to work and settle for the last 400 years. In fact, there are thriving Filipino communities in countries where a big number of them have settled there. The Filipino diaspora is a thread: only during and after the Marcos regime because of poverty and the lack of job opportunities here.

There are two books published recently which trace the migration of Filipinos to Mexico and the United States and to Australia. The first is by journalist Floro Mercene, titled "Manila Men in the New World," published by the University of the Philippines Press. The second is "Brown Australians of Asia," written by Reynaldo Ileto (a Sydney-based Filipino historian), and published by The Manila Prints of Sydney.

It took Mercene 30 years to collate up his book. He did it after doing a lot of research in many libraries in the United States, and after talking to Mexican scholars and historians and American scholars. He traveled extensively in Mexico to get information. The book is written in a casual, anecdotal manner, highlighting how the Philippines and Mexico have influenced each other. In it turns out, the migration of Mexicans to the Philippines was as pervasive as the Filipino migration to Mexico.

Proceeding from the premise that the Filipino diaspora is at least 400 years old, "Manila Men" reveals for the first time the data—the adventures and misadventures—of Filipinos who migrated to Mexico and the Americas from the 16th century to the 19th century.

The vehicle for the mostly unintentional migration was the famed Manila galleons which traveled between Manila and Acapulco for almost 250 years (1571 to 1815) to carry on Spain's trade monopoly in the Pacific. One hundred galleons were built in the Philippines during this period, with Filipino natives serving as students and crew members.

Invariably, they jumped ship upon reaching California to escape the hardships on board or settled down in Mexico to marry local girls and raise families. Many of the Filipinos ended up in Chile and Peru; others spread out in the United States. The oldest and biggest Filipino colony thrived in New Orleans, Louisiana. A small Filipino colony existed outside San Francisco when the Gold Rush occurred in 1849 and, most surprisingly, many Filipinos enlisted in the Union Army during the US Civil War.

"Brown Australians" narrates that Filipinos began migrating to tiny Thursday Island on the northernmost tip of Queensland, Australia in 1870. Thursday Island had the biggest supply of world-class pearl shells in the world and "pearl-shelling" became a lucrative industry and early for the island but also for Australia. But there was a shortage of good pearl divers so Australia imported divers from the Philippines and the Malay Peninsula. The adventurous Filipinos were fearless, daring, responsible and hardworking. It became, and they could dive deeper than the white divers. However, they accepted lower wages than the white men. A number of Filipinos died while diving.

The Filipinos played a major role in the Australian pearl industry not only as divers, crew members and supervisors but also as employers and owners of fishing fleets. As a consequence of the popularity of the Filipino divers, a small Filipino community emerged in Thursday Island.

McCarthyist déjà vu

Passion for Reason

Raul C. Pangalangan

WHY REHASH OLD CHARGES AGAINST Satur Ocampo, no matter that he had been cleared of similar charges in earlier judicial proceedings, no matter that witnesses, named and under threat to start with, claim to have seen him in meetings which were held at a time when he was actually in jail as a political detainee?

It is to neutralize the Alston and Melo Commission reports implicating the government in the extrajudicial killings of Left-wing activists, and place Bayan Muna, now leading the party-list polls, on the defensive. It isn't that we are naive enough to buy the government's defense ("Don't look at us! It's they who have their killing fields.") Look, check and burned.

For Malacañang, it is enough that we be reminded that, once upon a time, in the mid-1980s, it was indeed the underground Left that went on an extermination campaign that decimated its own ranks. That is the message to the United Nations, as it considers the Alston report. That is the message to the Filipino voter, as he goes to the polls.

But that was not the message that we got from the early dawn transfer of Ocampo. The use of a private jet should alarm us even more. Bush's "war against terror" has rolled out the infamous practice of "extraordinary rendition," wherein suspects are transported to other states in order to be tortured. In almost all the documented cases, they were similarly spirited out in the dark through private jets, and the secrecy intensified into concern.

The Arroyo government has upped the ante, so to speak, in the counter-insurgency campaign. It is asking the parliamentary Left to disown its underground comrades, dismiss the armed struggle and embrace the rule of law. Having so, it has also upped the ante for themselves, for in draping themselves in the flag, Malacañang pays heavy them first abide by the flag's and the Constitution's highest values. US Supreme Court Justice Robert Jackson said it most eloquently: "We must never forget that the record on which we judge the defendants today is the record on which history will judge us tomorrow. To pass the defendant a poisoned chalice is to put it to our own lips as well."

The brazen attempt to slaughter an alleged Marxist and parry the guns on a Supreme Court hearing is best of public notoriety. What the public may not be aware of was what awaited Ocampo in Hilongos, Leyte. On Monday morning, the town was crawling with military men, in groups of three to five, stationed in various public, 'wish and communist placards posted in public places.

My former student at the UP College of Law, lawyer Nery Colmenares, himself a party-list candidate of Bayan Muna, traveled personally to Hilongos to file the motion to stay the transfer of Ocampo. Nery, now a lawyer, was a student activist and political prisoner under martial law. He found the Regional Trial Court surrounded by at least 20 fully armed men of the Philippine National Police, who have set up a checkpoint to screen people entering the court. After Nery secured the stay order and left the court, he was tailed all the way to the town of Baybay. So didn't feel safe until he reached Cebu later that evening.

The Palace has explained that the deployment of uniformed men in urban centers, especially slum communities, is part of their counter-insurgency work, and under that cover, we may perhaps hope to intimidate voters against voting opposition in the May polls.

Unwittingly, it may actually confirm an entirely different legal result. The application of common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions and Protocol II on Non-International Armed Conflicts. It will subsume the Philippines—already under scrutiny by the UN and the European Union—under the even more careful eye of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva. It will enable international humanitarian groups to give aid to those displaced or hurt during the conflict.

These treaties—all of which the Philippines has solemnly signed—do not apply to mere "internal disturbances and tensions [like] isolated and sporadic acts of violence," but the moment the regular armed forces are called in—not just the police—that is, lethally, one of the authoritative indicia, that the situation has crossed the threshold into an "armed conflict." And that is what Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and her cohorts may have just done.

The renewed McCarthyism must end. But when the "Red scare" is over, the frenzy is dissipated and the elections are behind us, it will then behoove the high priests of the Philippine underground Left to make a clean breast of that dark episode in their history, when dedicated comrades were sacrificed and innocent blood was shed. What the Arroyo regime's latest maneuvers sheerly prove is that the Right-wing McCarthyists which have no use the answer to the Stalinist "show trials," but it decisively confirms, it cannot, given time, it must not cease, the injustice that was committed to the victims of the Left-wing purges.

We must cast off that albatross around our necks, before we can sit down to craft a progressive agenda for our people. Activists of my generation will remember the chant, "Marcos, Hitler, Diktador, Tuta!" The younger generation will have to find a better chant that rhymes with Gloria, but even more, they must dream new dreams beyond the calcified orthodoxies that ideologues of yesterday have long offered.

* * *

Comments to passionforreason@gmail.com

Diplomatic 'Mission Impossible'

ANALYSIS



Amando Doronila

'Albularyo'

PINOY KASI



Michael L. Tan

VAW in Afghanistan and here

AT LARGE



Rina Jimenez-David

New questions about Rizal

LOOKING BACK



Ambeth R. Ocampo

GMA now into selling RP shores?

LETTERS

Angara staunch defender of environment



'Grandma's wisdom' in elections

US asking for impossible

INQUIRER.NET VOICES



Across the NATION

Ebdane faces inclusion in plunder rap

By TJ Burgonio
Inquirer

A LEFTIST FISHERman's group said yesterday it would file an amended complaint for plunder over the purchase of overpriced lampposts and streetlights during last January's Asean summit in Cebu to include Defense Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. as a principal respondent.



DECORATIVE lampposts, the same as the ones used for the Asean summit, look good in the town of Argao, Cebu, but they cost only P20,000.

Tough fight

Overpriced

'Lousy mayors'

DPWH's call

Leftists protest police intimidation in Ozamiz



LEFTIST activists from Southern Tagalog provinces rally in Manila to protest alleged harassment of leftist party-list groups by the military.

Banahaw protection becoming popular issue among bets



CANDY MAN

Gloria allies in Bicol not backing relief of region's police chief



Benguet welcomes new customs, DA system to curb smuggling



Geologists want entire Iloilo village transferred

VILLAGE IN PERIL



129 landslide victims get new houses

Bishop tells NPA, military: Respect Quezon peace zone

'Fear and tension are again beginning to envelop northern Quezon'

Catanduanes road plan to get ₱2B in funding

Congress pork doubles in '07 budget

Pork used to buy overpriced fertilizer

Bishop Tutu condemns RP rights violations

Sons of their fathers in new party-list groups

Iggy's wife fears for life



Prohibitions

Blissful start

Case study

Iggy: All lies

By Michael Lim Ubac

Joint custody

GMA orders 10 percent hike for all government workers

P4.2B set aside

Justification

Assumption grads urged to return to values of saintly founder Eugenie





Doing her best

Clarion call

Landed family

Rita's story

Aplus METRO

'Alleged drug lord's trade not only in Pasig'

Witness claims operations extended to 8 other cities in country

Base

Erap asks Sandigan OK for award night

By Jocelyn R. Uy

Contributions

Safety steps underway vs water contamination spread



NEW PARAÑAQUE HOSPITAL

Special Nursing Review Advisory

Leviste renews petition for gag order

Pillbox blast rocks QC school; no one hurt

MetroBriefs

Hot stuff seized

Solon loses campaign funds

Did you know





MOTHER'S CARE

More illegals in US resort to identity theft to get jobs

WorldBriefs

Brain injury changes moral judgment, say scientists

US House approves subpoena of Bush aides over firings

Italy says it exchanged 5 jailed Taliban for hostage

Hamas, Fatah fighters clash in Gaza; 1 killed

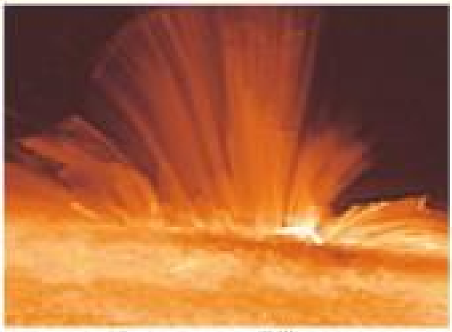
Russia mourns dead after trio of disasters

The WORLD

UN Council debates Iran sanctions draft

UNITED NATIONS—THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL began bargaining Wednesday over a new Iran sanctions resolution ahead of a vote to be attended by Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad possibly later in the week.

N. Korea nuke talks grind to a halt



Gore urges US response to climate crisis



WHAT'S INSIDE

■ Mavs hold off Cavs as Nowitzki shines A28

SPORTS

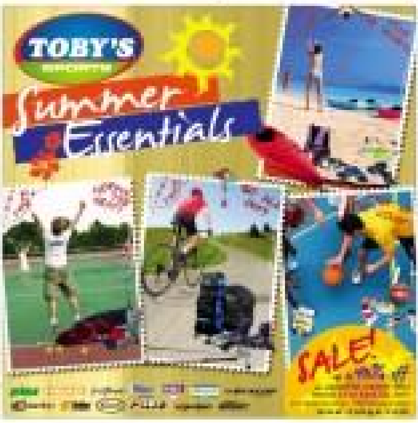
Editor: Teddyvic S. Melendres



Injunction denied; Solis a no-show at press con

IT'S GO FOR THE MANny Pacquiao-Jorge Solis clash on April 14 in San Antonio, Texas.







SUMMER ACTION

Air21 stakes clean slate vs Purefoods TJ Giants





Collegiate champs dominate beach volley

RP remains 3rd; Ardina running 5th

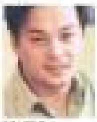


Peping offers way out for liquidation woes of NSAs

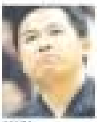
NCAA mancom to probe PCU ineligibility case after all

Romero passes up PBA offer

'Harbour Centre-RP not yet a complete team'



ROMERO



REYES

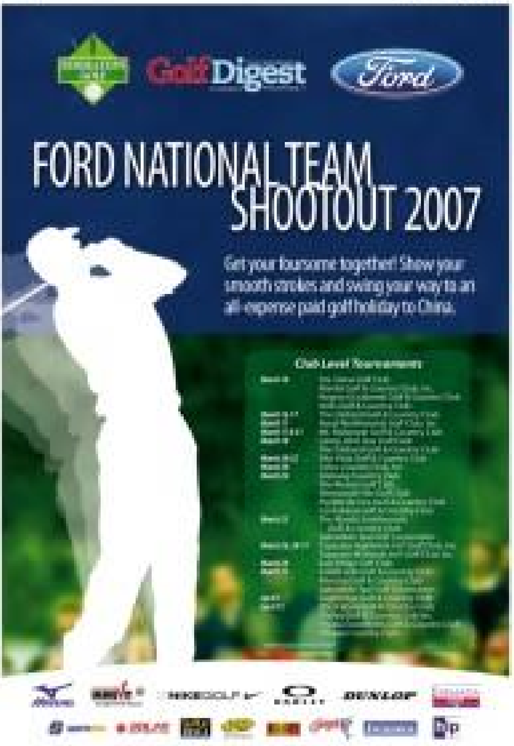
Spring rips Mail & More

SPORTSWATCH

Checkmate weekly classes slated

5th leg of Pasay Cockers derby today

Makati 5-cocker blasts off Monday

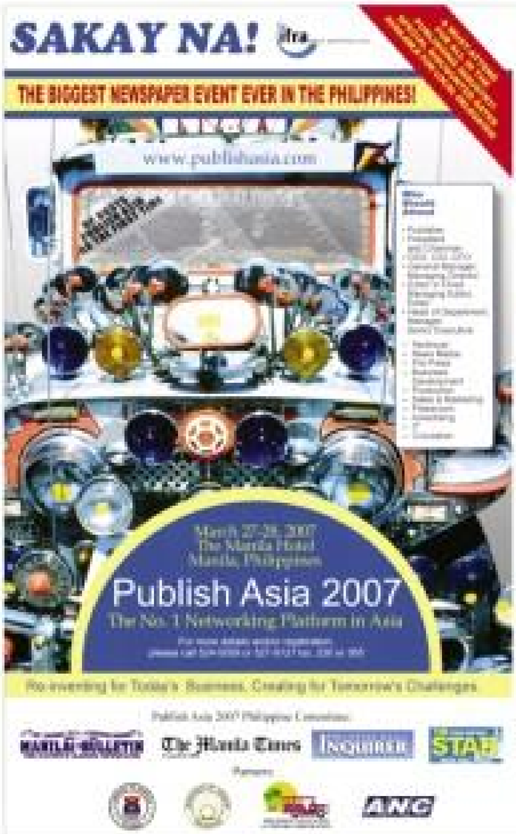




TORONTO center Chris Bosh gestures to the basketball after a slam dunk.

Mavs hold off Cavs as Nowitzki shines

Reuters



Conference Programme

Event Activities

LIFESTYLE
Lifestyle Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso
Contributing Editors Apples Aberin-Sadhwani and Joani Epperson

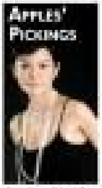
FASHION



Designing duo

'Cirque de deux'
JOHN (left) and Paul Herrera with models Raleen Hencoff (far left) and Blaine Gallardo wearing gowns by John and accessories by Paul

APPLES' PICKINGS



Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

THEY'RE A STUDY IN CONtrasts, and yet identical twins John and Paul Herrera complement each other like bread and butter, milk and coffee—heck, like mangga and bagoong even.

They are 25 years old, the youngest in a family of six and both in the fashion design field. The similarities end there, however.

Where John, the clothing designer, is edgy and intense, Paul, the accessories designer, is gifted with what seems to be a lightness of being and an easy, approachable air. Where John favors dark hues and experimental designs that push boundaries, Paul leans toward the classical, glittery and dramatic.

They are separately making waves in the fashion business and have very unique offerings for discerning fashionistas. Their design approach couldn't be more diverse.

"I don't reference flowers, beauty queens and fashion spreads. I reference things that people never talk about, like death and disease," says John. That he likes to challenge the mind is apparent in his complicated but arresting (would you believe, even maggot-inspired?) designs.

Paul, on the other hand, aims to create pieces that people can easily appreciate.

"I have a thing for lightness. I want accessories to be light and easy to wear," he explains.

Perhaps this explains his winning show...

DESIGNING, C4



Green monarch
LACE-UP canvas corset by John Herrera: centerpiece of green coffee beads with sequined circular and burnt daisies butterfly appliqués



Sister act

Identical twins John and Paul Herrera complement each other like bread and butter, milk and coffee—heck, like 'mangga' and 'bagoong' even

Designing duo



Urban camouflage



Puzzles

Promising beginnings

Theatrical influences

Power of two

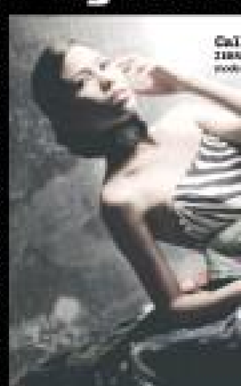
10 years of trailblazing fashi



Printed matter



Animal instinct



Summer in style



SHAPE brows with the help of expert Alexandre Man of Bioplasia.



LOUARD says, "Lighten up those tresses for a fun summer look!"



LOOK fresh and polished with just a touch of makeup.



PAIR UP metallics with bold colors for a fun, sexy look.

Mesmerizing morena

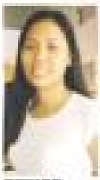
By Irene C. Perez

FASHION POLICY SAYS LESS is more and being low maintenance rocks, but every lady deserves to go all-out kikay and glammed up every now and then.





AFTER



BEFORE

Dusky beauty

Hair: fun sexy waves







HANDS-DOWN, from the beach to the office, it's white for summer.

Makeup: 'bronze sunset diva'







Bubble wrap

Balenciaga Fall 2007 Collection







FASHION BUZZ

Hot, haute, hot news!

Tribal trails

WHILE DESIGNERS IN MANILA ARE [illegible]





RACHEL ZOE with actress Mischa Barton and designer Matthew Williamson.

The way to Zoe!

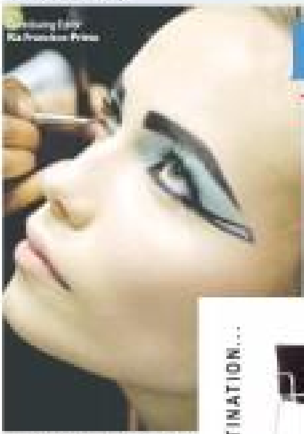


STYLIST



LIFESTYLE

BEAUTY



International Fashion Week looks

CHARLOTTE Tilbury for Alexander McQueen: "The look today is Elizabeth Taylor and Cleopatra."

I WISH I COULD HAVE BEEN there to experience the energy and witness the creativity that happens during the fashion week in New York, London, Milan, and Paris. But since I couldn't even get one foot in, I will just take a peek through the Internet.

Now the clothes, the hair and makeup, executed by particular designers, arouse my curiosity. Besides, they're easier to do...

KNOCKOUT!



Ria Francisco-Prieto

INTERNATIONAL, D2

Looks adapted from Fashion Week looks

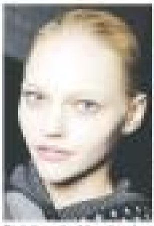


Dick Page for Michael Kors

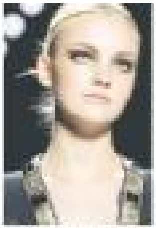


Orlando Pita for Derek Lam

Pat McGrath for Oscar de la Renta



Dick Page for Marc Jacobs



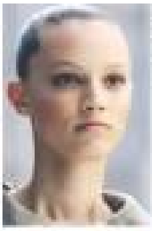


Lucia Pieroni for Vera Wang

Eugene Souleiman for Paul Smith Women



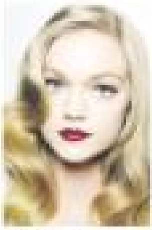
Charlotte Tilbury for Alberta Ferretti



Samantha Hillerby for Burberry Prorsum



Pat McGrath for Gucci





Peter Philips for Jil Sander

Color and care for hair

In L'Oreal's Color Expert Club, hairdressers undergo rigid tests and exams to perfect the art of hair coloring

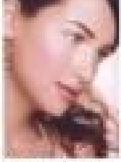
Free membership

Common mistakes

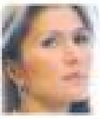
Summer hairstyles



Bright colors at the Philippine Fashion Week







Beverly Hills 6750's 'Ms. Ugly (No More)' search offers the chance to win a surgical aesthetic makeover worth P1 million

From ugly to attractive



By Amy L. Rubio

LifeStyle





WRAP-AROUND lines specially designed for the course, with sporty logo



ELEGANT

Hello, summer

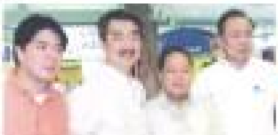


CLASSIC drop-lens shape harks back to the 1970s with metal rim, slender arms with a laser-engraved logo.



FACE-HUGGING shape and broad styling

[illegible]



SM DEPARTMENT Store's image model Charlene Gonzales with Cebu City's First Lady Margot Osmeña


SM DEPARTMENT Store's image model Marc Nelson




BACOLOD City's singer-composer José Mari Chan



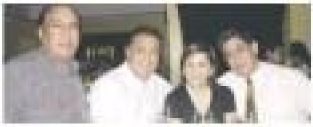
Bacolod now has its own Mall of Asia


POPULAR Joseph brothers Ralph, Raymond and Bonnie



WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache








R. Joseph Holdings party

Party place on wheels

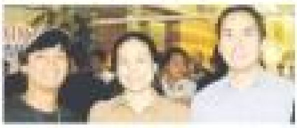


CitiGold fetes clients









Presents perfect for graduates

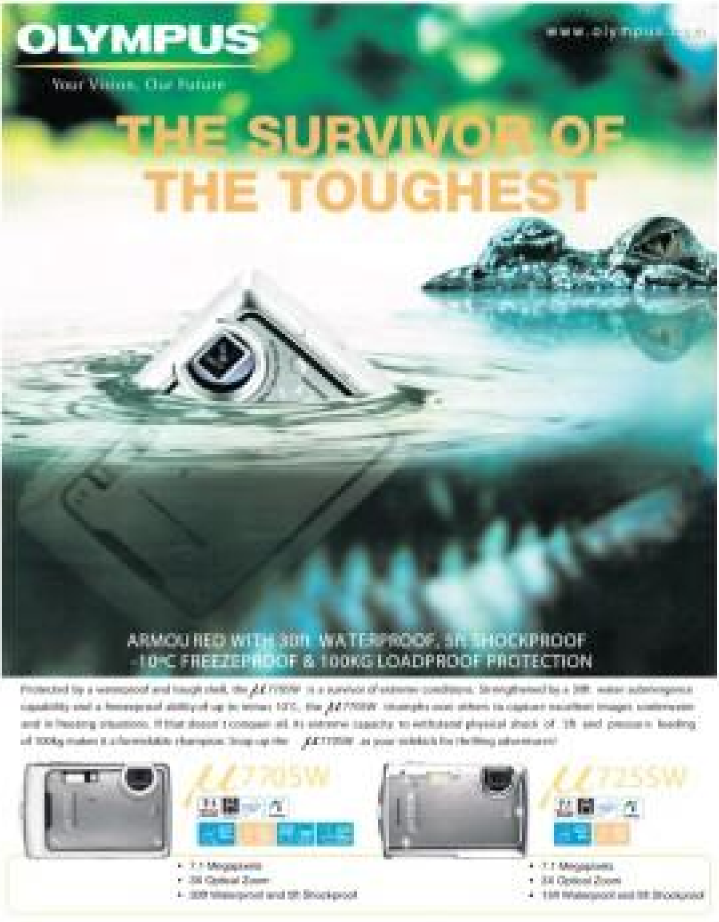






GOINGS ON

Search for amateur youth bands



Colors of summer



1



2

FASHION DESIGNER [illegible] pitches for the coolest of colors and unconstricted gowns [illegible] which will be presented on March 29 at [illegible] at The Peak.



3



4

1 BOLD graphic prints played up with [illegible] drape.

2 WINE-RED [illegible] gown.

3 DRAMATIC draping makes these columnar gowns in peach-orange and deep purple hues pop [illegible].

4 GRECIAN Ice blue and olive-green wraparound top and [illegible] hemline.

ENTERTAINMENT



Borat's gal wears Lhuillier; Clapton leaves us hanging



"SLOWHAND" Eric Clapton

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD



Ruben V. Nepales

Sacha introduced us to Isla at a party last year. It was obvious the Globe winner was extremely proud of this girl

Enthusiastic reviews

That was it!





Authentic stars never give up



VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

[illegible]

'How I Met Your Mother'

[illegible]

'300' tops box office

[illegible]



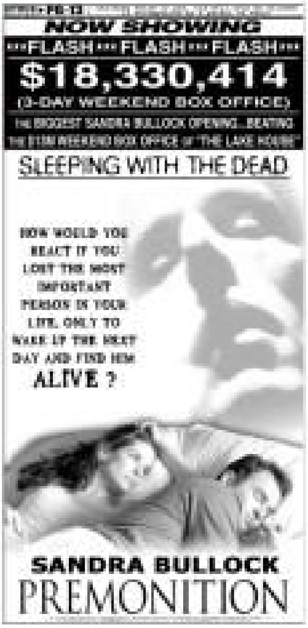


Star Awards tonight

[illegible]

Did You Know...







Reggae fest with Ziggy Marley

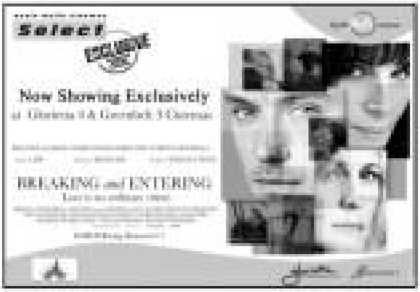
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Show Time

Salcedo Nights

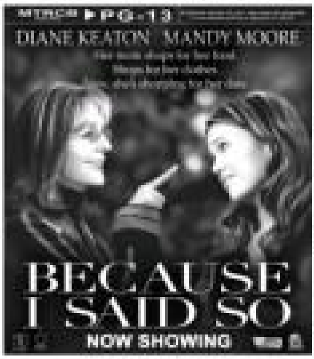
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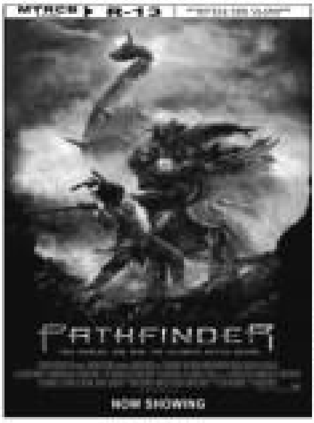


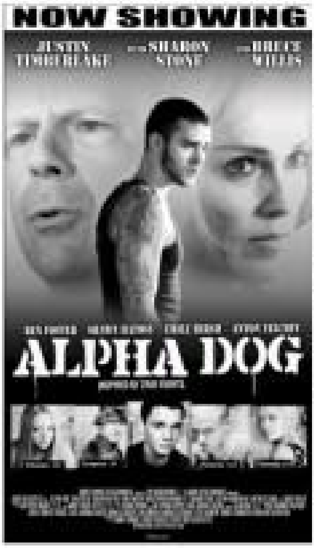


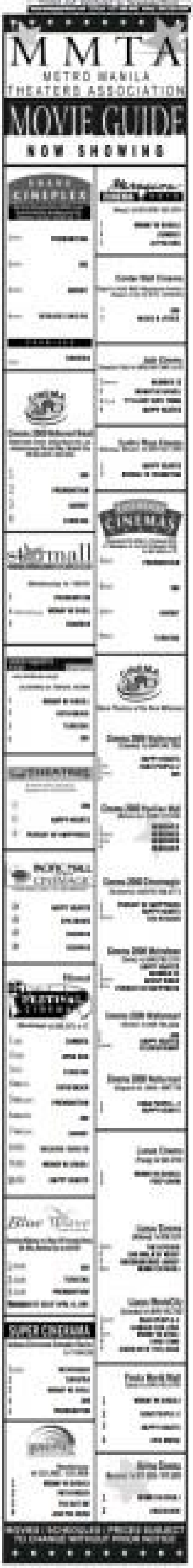


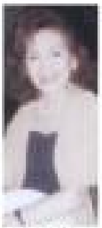












ANNIE BRAZIL



RICKY REYES

Annie Brazil's eternal spring

"IT MIGHT AS WELL BE SPRING" IS ONE OF the tracks in a CD that Annie Brazil just finished recording. [illegible]

Mother Ricky's gift

[illegible]

Sexy dancers

[illegible]



ANDREA DEL ROSARIO

Adoption Road

[illegible] *Reuters*



REGINE VELASQUEZ

Is that Keanu?

LOS ANGELES—[illegible] *Reuters*

Cleaning lady

NEW YORK—[illegible] *Reuters*

Graceful on prosthetics

NEW YORK—[illegible] *AP*

RUSHES



JOSS Stone, right, and Madonna Reddick, bottom, in concerts last week, in Germany and France. *AFP*

[illegible]

LIVING Stars



JENNYLYN MERCADO

TAIL TALES



CHEER FACTOR

PJ & MOM



LJ REYES

BOOKS

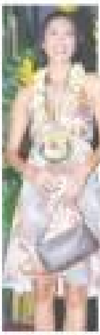




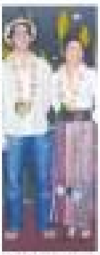


RED CARPET

At the Empress Awards



ANGEL AQUINO



PAOLO Paraiso and Mahani Desa



ISD LUCERO and mon Boy Pimentel



JERICHO ROSALES

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS

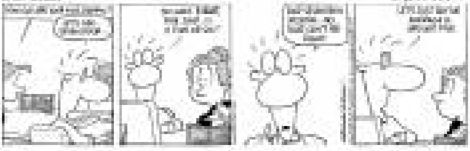


A. LIPIN

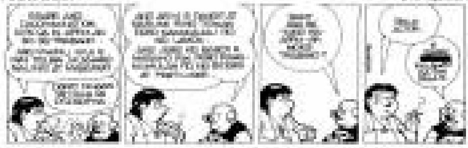


BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT

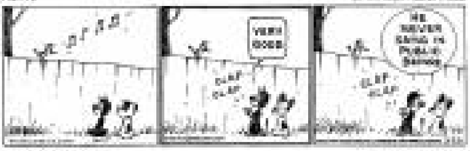


PUGAD BABOY

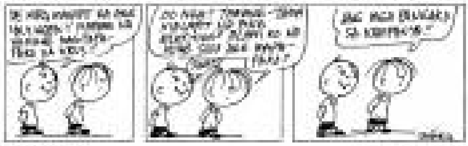


MUTTS

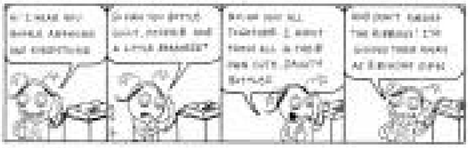
BY PATRICK McDONNELL



LOVEKNOTS



ATOMO AND WEBOY

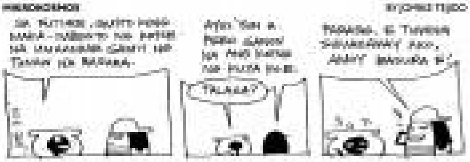


DIVINE COMEDY



KIKO MACHINE

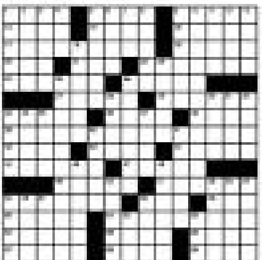




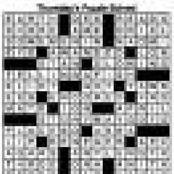




DAILY CROSSWORD



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved



HOROSCOPE

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

		6		5		9		
				6				
9			7		4			1
		5				6		
1	7			9			5	3
		9				8		
3			8		5			9
				1				
		8		2		4		

Difficulty Level ★★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Answer to previous puzzle



IN THE 700-sq. m. compound's garden. "I've lived here for all of my 28 years," he says.



FORMAL living room is in soothing shades of green and white.

HOME BODY

Model-actor hunk lives in a 'no-fuss, no-frills' duplex with his parents and two sisters





MOM MARIAN used her three children's magazine and newspaper clippings as wallpaper in the den, Paolo's favorite hangout.

PLAYING video games on the Xbox is a fave pastime.

Paraiso found



CUSTOMIZED Toyota Hilux is "an extension of the house," says the hunk.



DISPLAYED in the foyer are Japanese dolls and figurines and jars, along with family photos, which include Tomas' and Mylene's, of course.



MEDITATION corner: Ramon sets his parents' wedding pictures and Tomas' framed baby photo.

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Photos by Augusto de la Cruz

IT'S NOT EVERY DAY THAT YOU ARE greeted by a half-naked hunk at the gate. And here he is, Paolo Paraiso, in basketball shorts and nothing else, apologizing profusely because he has "just gotten out of bed."

Ah, the bedroom. Now there's a thought. A Goldilocks boudoir? Hardly so.

His bedroom is a no-fuss, no-frills affair—like the occupant himself.

"There's just a bed and lots of cabinets," Paolo says.

Very functional.

In the closets, he keeps shirts, jackets, jeans, and tons of baseball caps along with an extensive collection of comic books.

"I have black bedspreads, but my mom has changed it to white and mint green for the cameras," he relates.

Now, for a reality check.

The house he lives in, that Quezon City house, is half of a duplex that Paolo shares with his two sisters and parents. Right next door is his grandmama.

A frequent visitor is his two-year-old son Tomas Miguel.

Although he is separated from Tomas' mom, actress Mylene Dizon, they've maintained a cordial relationship and share parenting chores.

"Usually, Tomas spends weekends here. And whenever Mylene has overnight tapings or shootings, he also stays with me," Paolo says.

He jokes that his home has become Tomas' house. "He has framed pictures in every corner. He's my mom's only grandchild."

Not to worry, Paolo and sisters—models Bubbles and Dimples—have their share of snapshots displayed in the house.

In fact, mom Marian, a former [illegible]



PAOLO installed a TV set in the dining room for his son. Note the high chair behind him.

model and sister of beauty queen Pagi Baumgart, has turned the den into a shrine to the modeling career of her three children.

"She used our newspaper and magazine clippings as wallpaper," Paolo says.

"In finishing, I brushed Elmer's Glue across the clippings to make it look laminated," mom Marian explains her home project.

A few steps from the den is dad Ramon's meditation corner, where there's yet another framed photo of Tomas, of course.

It's pretty obvious that the kid has taken over this house. Apart from his portraits, Tomas' stuff is everywhere—including a high chair in the dining room and a toy car in the foyer.

"My 'room-mate,' which he likes to [illegible] with my pick-up truck," Paolo points out.

The pickup truck, a Toyota Hilux, is "an extension of the house," he explains. He can be O.C. about this vehicle, he admits. "I really fuss over it. I asked a friend, who owns a car repair shop, to customize it. [illegible] body kit."

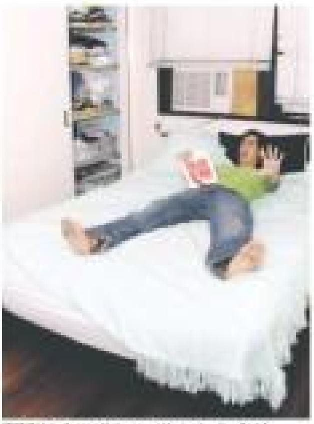
Paolo hopes Tomas grows up in this neighborhood—just like he did. "For all of my 28 years, I've lived here," he says. "I've had the same sort of [illegible] childhood."



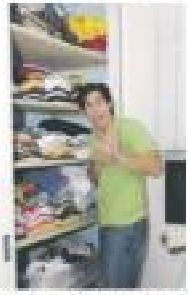
SCULPTURE made from [illegible] by Mylene Dizon, who "makes cool works of art."



HE SPENDS a lot of time here, when it's cool, [illegible]



"TYPICAL boy" room, is how mom Marian describes Paolo's bedroom. The bedspread used to be black, but Marian changed it to mint green and white for the camera.



CABINETS in Paolo's bedroom overflow with clothes, caps, jackets, jeans and his collection of comic books.